are the characteristics of the sacking of a town, have often been recorded by historians. The atrocities and horrors displayed by the crowded inhabitants of Jerusalem at the time of the siege by Titus—the madness, the murders, private and judicial, and the unbridled licentiousness, of the period of upheaval at the French Revolution, (prostitutes graced all their triumphs, and theatres were open every night during the Eeign of Terror,) have long been the themes of indignant moralists.* More horrific still are the scenes disclosed when plague visits a populous city, Thucydides tells us, that, at the time when it raged at Athens, lawlessness reigned to a greater extent than ever it had done before. When the people saw the sudden changes of fortune, in the case both of those who perished so lamentably in the midst of their prosperity, and of those who before had nothing, and who now came to inherit large possessions, their ideas became confounded and their principles unsettled—they lost all sense of honour,, and openly committed deeds which men are wont to hide from the view. Looking upon their properties and lives as so precariously situated, they abandoned themselves to whatever they thought would afford them immediate enjoyment, There was no fear of the gods, the historian tells us, for they felt that they could not be bettered by the worship which they paid ; nor was the law of man regarded, for they saw that human law could not inflict a greater evil than that to which they were now exposed.f During the plague at Milan in 1630, the most atrocious deeds were perpetrated. Persons named *monatti* were authorized to enter any house and inspect it, and were employed to carry the sick to the Lazaretto, and the dead to the sepulchre ; these men, becoming hardened in heart and blunted in feeling by their horrible office, came forth from the Lazaretto with feathers in their caps and singing merry songs, threw the dead

into the carts as if they had been sacks of grain, and entered the houses of the infected for the purposes of extortion and

* " Paris," says Madame Roland, " sees its brutalized population either running after ridiculous fetes, or surfeiting themselves with the blood of crowds of unhappy creatures sacrificed to its ferocious jealousy; while selfish idlers still fill all the theatres, and the trembling tradesman shuts himself up in his own house, not sure of ever again sleeping in his own bed, if it should please any of his neighbours to denounce him as having used unpatriotic expressions." All through the Reign oi Terror there were thirteen or fourteen theatres advertised daily in the newspapers.

f B. ii. 58.